

U.S. Appln. No. 10/625,106
Reply to Office Action dated August 3, 2006

PATENT
450100-04665

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 14-17, and 21-23, which are independent, are hereby amended. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-8 and 17-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2003-0051247 to Klopfenstein in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002-0059180 to Aoki, et al.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...calculation means for calculating an occurrence count of each item in the supplemental information as a function of a weighting factor of each item,

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wherein the weighting factor is dependent upon a timing of user actions;

selection means for selecting a particular program on the basis of the supplemental information and the occurrence count of each item in the supplemental information ...”
(emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Publication No. 2003-0051247 to Klopfenstein (hereinafter merely “Klopfenstein”) relates to adaptively storing program guide information. Program information for channels not included within a scan list is deleted to save available memory.

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Publication No. 2002-0059180 to Aoki, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Aoki”) relates to providing information suited for user preferences on the basis of a usage history.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Klopfenstein or Aoki, taken alone or in combination, that would teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1.

Specifically, Applicants submit that both Klopfenstein and Aoki fail to teach or suggest a calculation means for calculating an occurrence count of each item in the supplemental information as a function of a weighting factor of each item, wherein the weighting factor is dependent upon a timing of user actions, and a selection means for selecting a particular program on the basis of the supplemental information and the occurrence count of each item in the supplemental information, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 is patentable. For reason similar to those above, claims 2, 6, 7, and 8 are also patentable.

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Claims 9-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2003-0237093 to Marsh in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,642,939 to Vallone, et al.

Claim 17 recites, *inter alia*:

"...selection means for allowing a specific user, with identification information, to select from a list of commands, a particular process, and from a list of occurrences, a timing of performing the particular process;

storage means for storing data indicating the timing of controlling the information processing apparatus to perform the particular process and data indicating the particular process to be performed, as a function of the identification information,

wherein the identification information includes a weighting factor which is dependent on a timing of user actions;

input acceptance means for accepting input of the identification information..." (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Publication No. 2003-0237093 to Marsh (hereinafter, merely "Marsh") relates to handling multiple users in the context of electronic program guide systems. Various described embodiments permit the users to be identified to or registered with the system. The system can then establish a ranking or pecking order for the users. The ranking provides a point of reference from which the system can provide services to the users.

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 6,642,939 to Vallone, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Vallone") relates to multimedia schedule presentation system that provides a program guide area which is a list of the programs that are currently airing, was aired, and are scheduled to air. The program guide is semi-transparent and overlays the material that is currently being watched.

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Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Marsh or Vallone, taken alone or in combination, that would teach or suggest the above recited features of claim 9.

Therefore, claim 9 is patentable. For reason similar to those described above, claims 14, 15, and 16 are also patentable.

Claim 17 recites, inter alia:

"...wherein the operation stored in the operation history is dependent on a weighting factor which is dependent on a timing of user actions." (emphasis added)

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Klopfenstein or Vallone, taken alone or in combination, that would teach or suggest the above recited features of claim 17. Specifically, Applicants submit that Klopfenstein and Vallone fail to teach or suggest a that the operation stored in the operation history is dependent on a weighting factor which is dependent on a timing of user actions, as recited in claim 17.

Therefore, claim 17 is patentable. For reason similar to those described above, claims 21, 22, and 23 are also patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the

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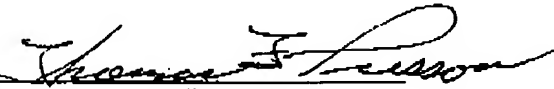
Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 
Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800

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